

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 1-45 are therefore pending.

The Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner of the allowable subject matter of claims 8, 13-28, and 30-39.

Applicant respectfully points out that on page 8, line 3 of the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004, the Examiner inadvertently refers to "parallel waveguides" and should have instead referred to "parallel outlet/inlet faces".

Claim 1 is directed to a display system, comprising: an optical panel including a plurality of optical waveguides stacked together, with first ends thereof defining an inlet face, and opposite ends thereof defining an outlet face; a projector that projects an image beam outbound across the inlet face for display on the outlet face; an imaging device that images the image beam is optically aligned between the projector and the inlet face; at least one optical detector that detects a location on the outlet face of an inbound light spot; and at least one channeling element that channels at least a portion of the light spot from the panel to the at least one detector.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Veligdan (U.S. Patent No. 5,455,882). However, none of the features underlined in the paragraph above are shown or suggested by Veligdan. In view of the absence of such teachings, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested by the cited prior art. For example, according to the Examiner on page 2, second to last line - page 3, line 2 of the Office Action, Veligdan's display system comprises "At least one channeling element that channels at least a portion of said light spot from said panel to said at least one detector (as described in column 12 lines 50-65 the light is channeled to the detectors, inherently this requires some sort of channeling element.)". Applicant notes that upon initial inspection of Figure 10 (which column 12, lines 50-65 refers to), it may appear that the light

sensors/detectors 42, 50 are situated at some distance away from waveguides 12 of panel 10. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Veligdan's Figure 10 is actually an exploded view (see, for example, col. 2, line 33) and that Veligdan's light sensors/detectors 42, 50 (i.e. in all embodiments taught by Veligdan) are, in fact, directly attached (i.e. physically connected) to the waveguides 12 of panel 10. Since the light sensors/detectors 42, 50 are directly attached to the waveguides 12 of panel 10, Applicant respectfully submits there clearly is no channeling element between the panel 10 and either detector (42 or 50). In other words, since the light sensors/detectors 42, 50 are directly attached to the waveguides 12 of panel 10, a channeling element placed between the panel (which comprises the waveguides) and either detector (42 or 50) is simply not required. Therefore, Veligdan's display system does not teach providing at least one channeling element that channels at least a portion of the light spot from the panel to the at least one detector as expressly claimed in claim 1 of the present invention.

Moreover, the Examiner states (in the "statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter" in paragraph 7 of the Office Action) that perhaps "...at least a portion of the wave-guides or some other not described part of the (sic) both the '882 and '679 patents must serve as a channeling element...". Applicant believes this comparison by the Examiner (i.e. that Veligdan's waveguides serve the dual function as a channeling element) is consistent throughout the Office Action. And, Applicant believes Veligdan's "dual functioning" waveguides (as interpreted by the Examiner) are clearly not a teaching of the channeling element as expressly claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. In claim 1 of the present invention, since the panel includes the waveguides and since the at least one channeling element is provided between the panel and the at least one detector, Applicant respectfully submits that the at least one channeling element recited in claim 1 of the present invention must be a separate and distinct element from the panel and therefore from the waveguides.

For at least the above distinctions, Applicant submits the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is functionally significantly different than Veligdan's display system.

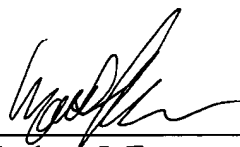
Therefore, the teachings of Veligdan do not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits the above arguments are also applicable for the rejection of claim 9 (see page 3, last 2 lines of the Office Action) and for the rejections of claims 11 and 12 (see page 4 of the Office Action). As such, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

It is noted that with the amendments made hereinabove to claim 10, the structure of Veligdan's panel 10 as shown in Figure 9 does not teach the limitations of claim 10 as now amended (see Examiner's statement on page 4, lines 1-4 of the Office Action). As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are allowable, because such claims depend from an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is therefore requested, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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